

**BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY** TN  
**NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE** REGULATORY AUTH.

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Re: Notice of US LEC Corp. of "Bona Fide )  
Request" for an Interconnection Agreement ) Docket No. 00-00026  
with TDS Local Exchange Carriers Pursuant )  
to 47 U.S.C. § 251 )

OFFICE OF THE  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

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**JOINT MOTION FOR SUSPENSION OF PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE**

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The parties in the above-captioned matter have been engaged in negotiations regarding Sections 251(a) and (b) and, at this time, represent to the Hearing Officer that a negotiated agreement appears likely. Such an agreement would result in the withdrawal of US LEC's Section 251(f)(1) petition seeking termination of TDS's rural exemption.

Therefore, the parties jointly ask that the procedural schedule be suspended following the filing of responses to discovery on April 19, 2002. The parties agree that the procedural schedule will resume at either party's request and that the dates in the revised schedule will be adjusted based on the number of days that elapsed during this suspension period.<sup>1</sup> In the alternative, the parties will present to the Hearing Officer a revised, agreed upon schedule.

US LEC agrees to waive the 120 day statutory deadline set forth in 47 U.S.C. 251(f)(1)(B) to the extent necessary to grant this request.


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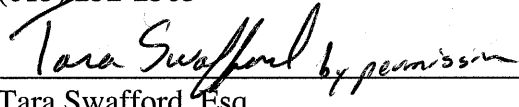
<sup>1</sup> The parties are aware that a suspension period of more than a few weeks could mean that this matter would be heard after the terms of the current Directors expire on June 30, 2002. Because of the likelihood of settlement, however, the parties believe that it would be more efficient to suspend the procedural schedule than to continue preparations for litigation.

Respectfully submitted,

BOULT, CUMMINGS, CONNERS & BERRY, PLC

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